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EDWARD CONLEY

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RHODESIA: AFRICA'S NEWEST TESTING GROUND

ANNCR:

THE BREAKDOWN IS RHODESIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS HAS LED TO INCREASED FEARS OF GUERRILLA VIOLENCE IN THAT MINORITY RULED BREAKAWAY COUNTRY AND INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT. VOA NEWS ANALYST EDWARD CONLEY HAS THIS REPORT:

INTRO:

THE IMPASSE REACHED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AND AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO LEAVES BREAKAWAY RHODESIA IN A PRECARIOUS POSITION. RHODESIA'S WHITE MINORITY..OUTNUMBERED TWENTY THREE TO ONE BY BLACKS..FACES THE REAL PROSPECT OF STEPPED UP GUERRILLA ACTIVITY. AND THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS BEEN OSTRACIZED FOR YEARS BY MOST OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY NOW FINDS ITS ECONOMY MORE SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED BECAUSE OF MOZAMBIQUE'S CLOSING OF SALISBURY'S RAIL LINKS TO THE SEA. FACED WITH THOSE REALITIES, IT WOULD SEEM REASONABLE FOR MISTER SMITH'S REGIME TO GIVE UP WHAT CAN ONLY BE A LOSING GAME AND SETTLE ONCE AND FOR ALL AN INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS ISSUE.

THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON RHODESIA RULE IS CLEAR AND HAS BEEN GIVEN HIGH LEVEL REEMPHASIS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS. PRESIDENT FORD EARLIER THIS MONTH DECLARED "THE UNITED STATES IS TOTALLY DEDICATED TO SEEING TO IT THAT THE MAJORITY BECOMES THE RULING POWER IN RHODESIA". (OPT) UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADOR TAPLEY BENNETT TOLD THE SECURITY COUNCIL LAST WEEK "THE UNITED STATES REMAINS UNEQUIVOCAL IN ITS SUPPORT FOR THE

BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO BRING AN END TO THE (SMITH) REBELLION IN RHODESIA". (END OPT)

THE RHODESIAN CRISIS HAS TAKEN ON AN ADDED URGENCY WITH THE SPECTRE OF THOUSANDS OF SOVIET ARMED CUBAN TROOPS STILL IN AFRICA AND WITH THE MEMORY OF THEIR RECENT ADVENTURISTIC INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. THE LOGICAL QUESTION IS: WILL THOSE TROOPS BE TEMPTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RHODESIA SITUATION AND INTERVENE FOR THEIR OWN DESIGNS?

IF THEY DO, IT WILL BE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A STRONG AMERICAN WARNING AGAINST SUCH ACTION. SPEAKING IN DALLAS, TEXAS (MONDAY) SECRETARY KISSINGER STRESSED: "THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACCEPT FURTHER CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTIONS ABROAD." THIS STATEMENT SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE SMITH REGIME IN SALISBURY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE EMPHASIZED LAST WEEK THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DO NOTHING TO HELP THE WHITE MINORITY REGIME (IN RHODESIA) TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY. THE SECRETARY'S DALLAS STATEMENT ALSO SHOULD BE LISTENED TO CAREFULLY BY ANY AFRICANS WHO WOULD ENCOURAGE THE USE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN RHODESIA. AS DOCTOR KISSINGER PUT IT: "(U.S.) COOPERATION IS NOT AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO RELY ON CUBAN TROOPS."

WHAT SHOULD NOW BE CLEAR TO BLACK AFRICANS AND THE WHITE MINORITY RULERS OF RHODESIA IS THAT THEY MUST QUICKLY SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE THEM FOR A PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM BEFORE IT ESCALATES TO AN EVEN MORE SERIOUS ISSUE.

WHAT SHOULD NOW BE CLEAR TO CUBA, WITH ITS THOUSANDS OF TROOPS IN AFRICA, IS THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT STAND BY AND WATCH ANY FURTHER ADVENTURISM....THAT FOREIGN INTERVENTION BY HAVANA IN THE FUTURE WILL BE DEALT WITH.